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JOHNSON SUMMONS TOP ADVISERS FOR TALKS

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(Text) Peking, 22 July--U.S. Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara yesterday discussed the situation in South Vietnam with President Lyndon Johnson, immediately after returning from Saigon, according to reports from Washington. After a five-day "fact finding" trip in South Vietnam, McNamara admitted at a press conference in Washington airport yesterday that the strength of the South Vietnamese people's armed forces had "increased dramatically" since his previous "visit" a year ago and the "situation in South Vietnam has deteriorated."

McNamara said that he and Henry Cabot Lodge, newly appointed U.S. "ambassador" to South Vietnam, and Earle G. Wheeler, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, would report their "observations and recommendations" from their "visit" to South Vietnam to the U.S. Government. He declined to reveal the contents of his recommendations. However, he indicated in his remarks that he would suggest that large numbers of U.S. armed forces be dispatched to South Vietnam. He said that there were "about 165,000 guerrillas in South Vietnam facing no more than 500,000 regular and paramilitary government forces, and this is quite an unacceptable ratio of antiguerrilla to guerrilla strength."

Johnson summoned his military and political top advisers to hear and discuss McNamara's report. The meeting was attended by Johnson, McNamara, Lodge, and Wheeler, as well as Secretary of State Dean Rusk; Under Secretary of State George Ball; Deputy Defense Secretary Cyrus Vance; McGeorge Bundy, presidential special adviser on national security affairs; William Bundy, assistant state secretary for Far Eastern affairs; John McNaughton, assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs; William Raborn, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and others.

White House Press Secretary Bill D. Moyers said that the meeting was held chiefly to hear McNamara's report on the general situation and war developments in Vietnam, adding that the participants were "discussing in great detail all of the aspects of the problems we face in South Vietnam" so that "a thorough and penetrating review" of the Vietnam situation was made. A series of meetings would follow in the next few days, he said.